352.0742B
C 54

352.0742B

ANNUAL

TOWN MEETING REPORT

FOR THE

TOWN OF CLAREMONT,

WITH

FINANCIAL REPORT,

REPORT OF

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS,

AND REPORT SUPERINTENDENT OF

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 17.

CLAREMONT, N. H.,
PRINTED AT THE NATIONAL EAGLE OFFICE.
1861.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

IN CLAREMONT.

At a legal Town Meeting duly notified and held at Claremont, in the County of Sullivan, on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, A. D. 1861, the following officers were chosen:

Moderator—CHARLES M. BINGHAM.

Town Clerk—THOMAS R. GOWDEY.

Selectmen, { WILLIAM CLARK, WILLIAM E. TUTHERLY, HORACE DEAN.

Representatives, { SOLON C. GRANNIS, TIMOTHY D. KIMBALL, JAMES GOODWIN, CHARLES H. EASTMAN.

VOTES FOR STATE AND COUNTY OFFICERS.

For Governor,		*For Senator,*	
Nathaniel S. Berry,	540	Lemuel P. Cooper,	502
George Stark,	225	Jonas Livingston,	253
Levi Bartlett,	2	Argulus Pease,	1
		S. F. Redfield,	1
Representative in Congress,		*For County Treasurer,*	
Thomas M. Edwards,	543	Albro Blodgett,	525
William Burns,	224	Thomas W. Gilmore,	223
Ezra J. Glidden,	1	William M. Ladd,	3
James Wood,	2		
For Railroad Commissioner,		*For Register of Deeds,*	
Jonathan T. P. Hunt,	542	Henry D. Foster,	536
Frederick Vose,	227	Hosea W. Parker,	222
		John S. Parmalee,	1
For Councillor,		*For County Commissioner.*	
Charles F. Brooks,	541	Nathaniel T. Cofran,	540
Eleazer Jackson,	223	Ira M. Clark,	207
Luther Cheney,	2	Charles E. Jackson,	1

Superintending School Committee.
Charles C. Church.

Town Treasurer,
Charles M. Bingham.

Collector of Taxes.
James W. Bradley.

Constables,
Walter H. Smith,
George H. Abbott,
James W. Bradley,
Horace A. Perry,
William Dodge.
Matthew T. Towns.

Fence Viewers,
Leonard P. Fisher,
James Sperry,
John F. Cossitt,

Hog Reeves,
John M. Whipble,
Henry S. Paul,
Phillemon Tolles,
Henry Judkins,
Henry Sargent,
Edwin Vaughan.

Pound Keeper,
Henry S. Paul.

Surveyors of Wood,
James Goodwin,
Joseph W. Osgood,
M. L. Jewett,
George W. Blodgett,
Sumner Putnam,
Daniel J. Livingston,
Daniel Burbee.

Sealer of Weights and Measures,
William P. Austin.

Sealer of Leather,
Silas E. Noyes.

Chief Engineer,
D. A. Clay.

Assistant Engineers,
Moses R. Emerson,
Edwin Vaughan,
Joseph Weber,

Highway Surveyors,
Dist. No. 1, Geo. W. Blodgett,
" " 2, Chester Benton,
" " 3, Sylvester Davis,
" " 4, Amos D. Johnson,
" " 5, David F. Tutherly,
" " 6, Abram Rogers,
" " 7, Horace Dean,
" " 8, John G. Putnam,
" " 9, Jonathan Wetherbee
" " 10, Stephen Glidden,
" " 11, Erastus Fisk,
" " 12, Russell Jarvis,
" " 13, Francis Whitcomb,
" " 14, Stephen Pettigrew,
" " 15, Jacob W. Sanborn,
" " 16, Enoch Johnson,
" " 17, Hiram Erskine,
" " 18, Cyrus A. Leet,
" " 19, Jacob Smith,
" " 20, Sam'l H. Andrews,
" " 21, Homer E. Grannis,
" " 22, L. R. Farnsworth,
" " 23, Cornelius D. Conner,
" " 24, Edward W. Moore,
" " 25, Franklin Norton,
" " 26, Thomas B. Fletcher,
" " 27, O. J. Willard,
" " 28, John H. Lewis,
" " 29, Patrick Lynch,
" " 30, O. J. Brown,
" " 31, James Sperry.

Surveyors of Lumber.
George W. Fitch,
James Goodwin,
Jonathan Miner,
Nathaniel Bancroft.

Auditors,
Aurelius Dickinson,
James Goodwin,
E. L. Goddard.

At a special Town Meeting, holden on Saturday, the 30th day of March, 1861—

Henry Fitch was chosen Moderator.

Voted, To raise the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, to be paid in labor, for the repairs of Highways.

Voted, To raise five hundred dollars for the legal expenditures of the Town.

Voted, To divide the school money, fifty dollars to each District, and the remainder by the scholar.

Voted, To pay Engine men three dollars and fifty cents in addition to what they are entitled to by law.

Voted, To raise six hundred dollars for the purpose of building a Tomb, grading the walks, and furnishing water for the new Cemetery.

Voted, That the Selectmen be authorized to increase the number of street lights at such points as they may think proper.

Voted, To inforce the law for the suppression of intemperance, chose the Selectmen, together with Joseph Weber and Jonas Livingston a committee to enforce the above law.

Voted, That the Selectmen be instructed to construct some suitable place in which to detain disorderly persons, or persons under arrest.

Voted, To build two Resevoirs, to be located by the Engineers.

Voted, To instruct the Representatives to use their best efforts to procure a charter for a new Bank of discount, to be located in Claremont.

Voted, To discontinue the old road from The Poor House through the Town Farm and land of Harvey Tolles to land of James Kelly.

Voted, That the Selectmen be instructed to purchase a piece of land to enlarge the Burying Ground near Union Church, not to exceed one hundred and fifty dollars.

TOWN OF CLAREMONT.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 5, 1861.

The Auditors of the town beg leave respectfully to submit the following Report:—

The valuation, as assessed April 1, 1860, of Real Estate, including Mills and Machinery, is	$1,313,038	
Valuation of Personal Estate,	502,118	
873 polls, at $240 each,	214,320	
Total Valuation,		2,029,476

The rate of taxation the present year is 50 cts. on $100, in money, and 10 cts. in labor on highways.

Amount of taxes assessed as follows, viz:

For Schools, as required by law,	$3,414,00

Interest on School lands sold,	127.24	
Interest on Literary Fund,	334.30	
		3,875.54
Legal Expenses of Town by vote,	2,000.00	
County Tax,	2,107.42	
State Tax,	1,194.90	
Repairs of Bridges,	500.00	
Add about 4 7-8 per cent.,	476.02	
		6,278.34
		$10,153.88
For School House Tax in District No. 17,		617.69
do do do do No. 13,		128.52
do do do do No. 7,		102.27
For Highway Tax, paid in labor,		2,025.09

RECEIPTS.

Amount paid into the Treasury, year ending March 5, 1861.

Balance in Treasury, March, 1860,	$1,797.78	
From Goodwin & Co., showman's license,	30.00	
Nixon & Co., circus license,	30.00	
County, on Pauper account,	512.13	
P. C. Freeman, Police Justice,	62.51	
Wm. P. Austin, Associate Justice,	1.18	
State, for Literary Fund,	316,50	
School Land Rents,	56.57	
A. Burrill, for use of Town House,	18.00	
T. R. Gowdey, Liquor Agent,	87.42	
J. W. Bradley, Collector of Taxes,	7,700.04	
		10,612.13

DISBURSEMENTS,

Or amount paid out of Treasury:—

For Repairs of Highways and Bridges,	$721.65	
Schooling,	3,917.11	
Ringing Bells and Sexton's services,	125.08	
Support of Poor,	964.31	
Abatement of Taxes assessed in 1859,	6,60	
do do do do 1860,	90.76	
Building School House in District No. 17,	617.69	
do do do No. 13,	125.00	
do do do No. 7,	100.00	
		6,668.20

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

J. Weber, for printing Town Warrant, &c.,	34.50
A. Burrill, for Wood and Labor on Town Hall,	19.28
O. F. R. Waite, for Printing,	1.00
Fletcher & Hart, examining Bridge,	3.00
T. Sanford, Hearse Cloth,	5.00
G. Densmore, setting Trees at New Cemetery,	8.12
J. Barker, Repairs in Cemetery at West Claremont,	2.50
P. C. Freeman, services as Police Justice,	100.00

R. Metcalf Estate, legal advice in 1857,	3.00	
G. H. Abbott, Guide Boards,	2.50	
A. Burrill, Repairs on Hearse,	3.00	
P. C. Freeman, Seal for Police Court,	6.25	
L. Harriman, Gates for New Cemetery,	35.70	
B. Maxwell, damages by defective highway, 1859,	200.00	
J. L. Farwell, Lamp Posts,	15.00	
C. H. Long, running Town Line,	6.00	
Paid H. Dean, R. Petty, F. Whitcomb, F. S, Chellis and Wm. Jones, for Watering Troughs, $3 each,	15.00	
Wm. B. Henry, Repairs on Hearse,	2.00	
P. C. Freeman, for Rent of Selectmen's Room,	25.00	
Paid J. G. Allds, H. Fitch, and A. Blodgett, for appraising land damages on Highway laid through C. Stoddard's land,	3.00	
Wm. P. Austin, services as Associate Justice and Surveying,	10.75	
P. C. Freeman, for Wood and Lights,	5.50	
E. K. Smith, for damages by defective Highway,	5.00	
Freeman, Colby & Brooks, legal advice,	6.00	
B. P. Gilman, for Gas in Street Lights,	50.00	
Wm. Dodge, services as Sheriff,	8.00	
H. Dean, expense to Newport and Cornish,	4.75	
Wm. E. Tutherly, do do do	2.00	
G. W. Merrifield, for Stationery,	9.17	
		591.02

NEW HIGHWAYS, &c.

Paid Laura Clement, land damages,	6.00	
F. W. Densmore, do do	10.00	
C. Stoddard, do do	115.00	
		131.00

TOWN OFFICERS.

Ira Colby, services as Selectman in 1859,	9.00	
Wm. P. Austin, services as Chief Engineer in 1859,	5.00	
C. C. Church, services Superintending School Committee in District No. 17, 1859,	13.00	
A. Cossit, services as Auditor in 1859,	2.00	
J. W. Bradley, services as Collector of Taxes,	100.00	
T. R. Gowdey, services as Town Clerk,	41.56	
C. M. Bingham, services as Treasurer & Moderator,	30.00	
Wm. Clark, services as Selectman,	114.75	
Wm. E. Tutherly, services as Selectman,	105.00	
H. Dean, services as Selectman,	88.50	
Wm. Clark, services as Overseer of the Poor,	25.00	
Wm. Clark, services drawing orders, &c.,	20.00	
		553.81

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Engine Men for services 1859,	400.00	
S. F. Redfield, & Co., for Rubber Coats, Pants and Caps for Firemen to No. 3.,	17.50	

D. A. Clay, & Co., for Repairs on Hydrant, Engines, Engine Houses, &c.,	60.95	
J. Minor, for Couplings for Hose, &c.,	7.00	
Rollins and Nutt, Stewards bills,	5.00	
L. Harriman, for Hooks, Ladders, Wood, &c.,	18.26	
		563.71
Whole amount paid out of the Treasury,		$8,507.74
Leaving balance in Treasury of		2,104.39

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Amount of Money raised by Law,	$3,414.00	
Interest on Literary Fund,	334.30	
Rent of School Lands and Interest on School Land Fund,	183.81	
		3,932.11
Deduct for Teacher's Institute and Superintending School Committee,		168.28
		$3,763.83

Which is divided $50 to each district, and the remainder by the Scholar, which gives about $2.45 1-2 to each Scholar.

District.	No. Scholars.	Am't.	District.	No. Scholars.	Am't.
1	290	$762.04	11	34	$133,48
2	54	182.59	12	21	101.57
3	29	121.21	13	17	91.75
4	47	165.41	14	30	123.65
5	36	138.39	15	120	344.63
6	26	113.84	16	20	99.11
7	34	133.48	17	240	639.29
8	26	113.84	18	45	160.49
9	48	167.85	19	20	99.11
10	9	72.10			

TOWN FARM.

Cost of Supporting the Poor:—

Amount of property at Town Farm, March, 1860,	$1,694.87	
Amount due from County for support of Poor, 1860,	64.20	
Paid T. B. Fletcher's Salary,	280.00	
do do for sundry purchases,	434.25	
do Selectmen to aid Poor not on the Farm,	154.25	
Interest on Cost of Farm,	228.00	
Wm. Clark, Overseer of Poor,	25.00	
		2,880.57

Cr. as follows:—

Amount received for County Paupers,	512.13	
do due from County,	42.07	
do Personal Property at Farm, March, 1861,	1,945,51	
		2,499.71
Cost of Supporting the Poor,		380.86

LIQUOR AGENT'S REPORT,

For the year ending March 1, 1861.

Amount of Liquor on hand March 1, 1861,	$252.17	
do do Money paid into Treasury,	87.42	
		339.59
do do Liquor on hand March 1, 1860,		302.54
Net gain to the town,		37.05
Amount received for sale of Liquors by Agent from March 1, 1860, to March 1, 1861,		1,473.09
Amount paid for Liquors,	$1,135.67	
do do for Agent's Salary,	250.00	
do do into Town Treasury,	87.42	
		1,473.09

ASSETS OF THE TOWN.

Balance in hands of Treasurer March 5, 1861,	$2,104.39
Due from County on pauper account,	42.07
	$2,146.46

LIABILITIES.

The town having appropriated the Literary Fund, now amounting to $5,888.19, and the proceeds of the School Lands, amounting to $2,120.71, is justly liable for the annual interest thereon, for purposes of Schooling.

Aside from the above, the town is free from debt, and has a surplus in the Treasury of $2,104.39, and due from the County on pauper account, $42.07.

The Auditors beg leave to say, that in their opinion, the affairs of the town have been economically and faithfully managed.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES GOODWIN, } Auditors.
SAMUEL C. BAILEY, }

SCHOOL REPORT.

Report of the Superintending Committee for the year ending March, 1891.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—In accordance with the Statute of the State, your Superintendent respectfully submits the following Report of his official labors, and of the progress, condition and wants of the Schools.

We deem it a just cause of congratulation, that in presenting our annual report, we are able to give a favorable account of the schools under our charge.

Most of them have been eminently prosperous, rendering valuable service in the training of the children and youth of the town, and thus returning a rich equivalent, for the labor and money which have been expended for their support.

The whole number of Scholars attending school in town not less

than two weeks, during the past year, is 996. This is a decrease of 59 from the preceding year.

Forty-nine teachers have been employed by the town during the year; sixteen males and thirty-three females. All the Summer and Fall schools, except the Grammar in District No. 1, Fall term, were taught by females; and in Districts No. 6, 10, 14, 16 and 19, also in the Intermediate and Primary departments in Nos. 1, 15 and 17, female teachers have been employed during the Winter term.

But as District No. 17, acts under the "Somersworth Act," and elects its own Superintending Committee, it will be remembered, therefore, that the general remarks we offer in respect to our schools, do not apply to the District just named, as that has not been under our supervision.

As a majority of the teachers employed have taught in town before, and several of them in the same districts, of their qualifications you have heard in former reports of your Committees; hence, in taking a view of the schools, we do not propose to speak of them in detail, after the manner of some previous reports. Their condition does not vary essentially from what it was one year ago, except that they have, as we believe, generally been making sure progress.

We propose to notice the schools of each term in connection, and point out such peculiarities, as are proper subjects of special remark.

FIRST, OF SUMMER SCHOOLS.

During the Summer, there were, under the charge of your Committee, twenty schools.

The Grammar department in No. 1, was taught by an experienced, faithful and devoted teacher; and had it not been for the impression, on the part of some of the larger boys, that they were too large, or too far advanced to attend a school conducted by a lady, (and we fear that this feeling was encouraged, rather than discouraged, by some of the parents) it would have been a very profitable school. This notion existing among some of the scholars, caused the teacher some trouble and many unpleasant feelings, and materially lessened the interest of the school; notwithstanding these obstacles most of the scholars who attended through the term, made commendable progress.

Of the other schools, those in Nos. 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, and the Intermediate and Primary in No. 1, together with the Grammar and Primary in No. 15, were all orderly, and a good degree of progress was made.

The Schools in Nos. 2, 6, 12, 13, 18, and the Primary departments in Nos. 1, and 15, were especially animated and enthusiastic in their exercises. While those in Nos. 4, 7, 9, 11 and 14, with the Intermediate in No, 1, though not characterized by quite as much life and enthusiasm as the former, were equally systematic and orderly, and gave evidence of having had a thorough drill upon principles, in the branches pursued.

The schools in Nos. 3, 8 and 10, were taught by young and inexperienced teachers. Fair progress was made, and so far as we know general satisfaction was given. In No. 3, the first time we visited the school, there was considerable restlessness, and a want of order, but by the prompt and energetic action of the teacher, these evils

were corrected, and at the examination, it was apparent, that a decided change for the better had been wrought.

In No. 5, the school appeared well when first visited, but for some cause, it was not satisfactory to all in the district. Several of the scholars were taken out before its close, and we are of the opinion, that the teacher was not as well sustained in her efforts to maintain order, and to secure correct habits among her scholars, as she should have been. As the school was closed one week sooner than we expected, we did not visit it near its close.

As the scholars in No. 16 are mostly large, there was no school during the summer.

A remark or two, in respect to some of the studies pursued, and we close our report of the Summer Schools.

In the Intermediate and Primary departments of No. 1, and the Primary in No. 15, together with the school in No. 7, the classes in Mental Arithmetic showed much readiness and promptness in their recitations. Their conclusions were reached correctly, and they were ready to give clearly, *why* they came to their conclusions thus and so. Especially was this the case in the Primary department of No. 15. Several scholars who commenced to learn the figures with the Summer term, were able at the close of the Winter, to solve any examples put to them from Holbrook's Mental Arithmetic, or any practical examples, equally difficult, suggested by the Committee. There was commendable improvement in Reading, Written Arithmetic, Grammar and Geography in most of the schools; among which we would notice Nos. 2, 4, 6, 12, 13 and 18.

SECOND, OF FALL SCHOOLS.

There were eight schools in session during the Fall, viz.: in No. 1, three, in No. 15, two, in Nos. 2, 12 and 18, one each. These with the exception of the Grammar department in No. 1, which was taught by your Committee, were under the care of the same teachers in the Fall, as in the Summer, and with corresponding success.

THIRD, OF WINTER SCHOOLS.

The past Winter we have had the charge of twenty-one schools. Eight of these have been instructed by females, and with good success. And we would here express our approbation of the course pursued by so many of the Prudential Committees, in procuring experienced, faithful and earnest female teachers for the winter, in preference to young and inexperienced males. By this means the schools have been continued longer, and we think, quite as thoroughly disciplined and taught.

All the schools in Dis. No. 1, together with those in Nos. 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, with both of those in No. 15 and those in 16, 18 and 19, have been under the care of persons of more or less experience in teaching.

The general appearance of those in Nos. 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, with the Intermediate and Primary departments of No. 1, and the Grammar and Primary of No. 15 has been attractive. The scholars in attendance have manifested much interest in their studies. The instruction has been thorough and the progress commendable.

The Grammar School in No. 1 has been instructed by your Committee; and we think it sustains the reputation it had one year ago.

The success of the school in No. 2, the first part of the winter, was not such as to meet the approval of those most interested in it, and at the expiration of the sixth week the teacher left. His place was immediately filled by a young man of much energy and tact in governing, and for the last eight weeks the deportment of the pupils was good, and the discipline of the school well maintained.

The school in No. 3 passed along quietly, and we regard it medium—in reference both to progress and discipline.

The deportment of the school in No. 11, when first visited, was creditable both to teacher and scholars. But for some cause there was not through the term that co-operation of the parents with the teacher, which is necessary to complete success, and at the close of the term, we did not find the school in that condition which we had reason to expect from its appearance at the commencement. There was, however, decided improvement in some of the branches pursued; among these we would notice reading and geography.

In Nos. 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12, the schools have been taught by persons inexperienced in the business; and we are glad to report that there were no cases of failure among the tyros in the profession.—Most of them were abundantly successful. Nos. 4, 8, and 12 were distinguished for activity, vivacity and promptness. No. 4 was highly commendable in respect to its order, and there was a precision in the general arrangements of the school that suggested to us the thought that a knowledge of "Military Tactics" was beneficial even to a teacher.

The teacher in No. 5 has been quite successful, both in the discipline and instruction of the school, so much so as to give general satisfaction in the District, a point which has been considered rather difficult to attain. The School in No. 10 appeared well when we visited it; as we were not informed when it would close, we were not present at the examination, hence are not prepared to report its progress.

In Districts No. 5, 8 and 18, the schools have been prolonged beyond their usual length. In No. 5, expenses defrayed with public money; in No. 8, partly by public money, and the remainder by subscription; in No. 18, wholly by subscription. The school in No. 8 is still in session and is doing very well.

A few miscellaneous remarks and we close our report. In the discharge of our duty, as Committee, we found that the wants of the schools demanded a change in Reading Books; that this important branch had not received the attention it merits; that the children, having become familiar with the contents of the various books in use, were, with difficulty, interested in their lessons. After examining several series, we decided, at the commencement of the winter term, to recommend Town and Holbrook's Progressive Readers. Most of the schools procured the book at once, and we are able to report, that already, the change has produced very beneficial results.

Feeling that there was a deficiency among the scholars in respect to Spelling, at the commencement of the Winter term, we pro-

posed to the several schools under our supervision, that we would, at the close of the term, present, as a prize, Webster's Unabridged Pictorial Quarto Dictionary to that school which should spell the largest per cent. of a list of words selected from the spellers used in town. And we are gratified to report that it has had a favorable influence in leading the scholars to examine more carefully that too much neglected text-book, the Spelling Book. The school in No. 18, drew the prize; but we think *all* have been essentially benefitted by the drill, which we regard *more valuable* than the prize.

In a few of our schools, besides the Common English Branches, Physiology, Physical Geography, Book-Keeping, Algebra and Geometry, have been taught. In some, the scholars have attended to composition and declamation, and their exercises have been truly creditable.

There have been some changes for the better in the school property.

A neat School House has been built in No. 13, which was dedicated with appropriate services, and stands as a monument of the enterprise and liberality of the District.

In Districts No. 4 and 10 the old School Houses "still live," with all their imperfections, but it is to be devoutly wished and hoped that these districts will soon follow the good example of No. 13.

In more than half of the districts in town, new Maps of the State have been procured; and several have purchased Globes.

Early in the winter, a Teachers' Association was organized, which has held weekly meetings, the exercises consisting of Discussions and Essays upon the best modes of instruction and government. Your Superintendent has held meetings in fourteen of the districts, and addressed the citizens upon the subject of our Common Schools.

As the character of our schools depends upon the ability and faithfulness of the teachers, and the selecting of these devolves upon the Prudential Committees, we would direct the attention of the different districts (as we have in our lectures) to the importance of electing to this office the very best man, or men, in the district. A man to discharge successfully the duties of this office should have sound sense. He should be a man who will exercise as *good* judgment in the selection of *teachers*, as he would in the purchase of a horse or any article of merchandise; and not hire them because they will work cheap, or because they happen to be personal friends, or members of the same religious denomination, or of the same political party. The committee should have a real interest in the cause of public schools, and not only be competent to *secure* a teacher, but be willing to make a *reasonable* effort to procure a *good one.* And it should be borne in mind by our citizens that in this advancing age, the average wages of teachers is also increasing, in consequence of which our schools must necessarily become shorter or our school fund increased. And we would here recommend that the town raise for Public Schools, in addition to the amount required by law, a sum equal to the interest of what is reported as "Literary Fund," and that hereafter the fund received annually from the State be divided among the several districts according to law. This would in-

crease our school money from three to four hundred dollars each year, and the town would really become none the poorer.

The average attendance in the various schools compares well with that of former years, and the cases of irregularity and tardiness are becoming less. Shall we not see these evils *entirely* removed by those who fondly love and desire the happiness and intelligence of their children? We are glad to report that we find by an examination of the School Registers, an increase of visits to the school room by the parents and patrons of the schools. The number of visits made during the year is 1879, exclusive of those made by committees. By these our children are inspired to worthy action; and we trust that hereafter this too much neglected duty will *always* be attended to.

We have not space in this report in which to discuss theories of teaching, or topics of a general character; but we would say in conclusion, that, what we most need in our Common Schools is *solid, thorough, elementary instruction;* instruction in those arts and sciences, a knowledge of which is of direct practical use in the various departments of business life. To accomplish this we must have thorough and practical teachers; those who will not only teach the contents of the Text Book, but will take much pains to show their pupils as they proceed the *application of the principles* involved in the studies pursued. If we thus make our schools what they should be, yea, what they *may* be by the co-operation of parents with their teachers, children and committees, our children may be qualified in them to discharge every common trust with honorable success.

For statistics in reference to names of teachers, Prudential Committees, length of terms, whole number of scholars attending, average attendance in each school, and number of visits in each District during the year, see Statistical Report.

All which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES C. CHURCH,

Superintending School Committee of Claremont.

REPORT

Of the Superintending School Committee of District No. 17, in Claremont, (under the Somersworth Act,) for the year ending March, 1861.

The Superintending Committee of Schools in District No. 17, in compliance with the law, respectfully submits the following Report:

There have been three terms of each of the four schools in this district during the past year, amounting to thirty-one weeks. A Summer term of ten weeks, commencing May 7th; the whole number of scholars attending two weeks or more was one hundred and forty-four; the average attendance one hundred and nineteen.

A Fall term of nine weeks, commencing August 20th. Whole number of scholars one hundred and thirty-six, and an average attendance of one hundred and seven.

The Winter term commenced December 3d, and continued twelve weeks. Number of scholars one hundred seventy-nine, with an average attendance of one hundred fifty-six.

The Summer and Fall terms of the Primary school on Pearl street, were under the instruction of Miss Irene W. Felt of Winchester. Miss Felt is an experienced and competent teacher. She had taught this school for several terms with success. The school was noticeable for its order and general appearance, while the examinations showed a commendable improvement during these terms.

The Winter term was taught by Miss Annie E. Bliss of this town. Good order and quiet prevailed under her tuition, and the apparent advancement was very commendable to both teacher and scholars.

The Summer and Fall terms of the Primary school on the "Terrace" were under the charge of Miss Helen M. Richardson of Charlestown. Miss Richardson is an experienced teacher, of ability and tact in imparting instruction to small children. She had taught in this district for more than a year, and these terms were no exception to the general satisfaction she has always given to all concerned so far as we know.

Miss Maria L. Dunklee of this town, taught the Winter term of this school. Miss Dunklee is well qualified in many respects for the position of a teacher, but failed in this instance to maintain that degree of order and discipline necessary to complete success.

The intermediate School was taught in the Summer and Fall terms by Miss Lizzie A. Holden of this town. Miss Holden labored hard for the advancement of her pupils, with but partial success. The scholars were irregular in attendance, and there was not the good order, thoroughness, nor practical method in teaching desirable.

The Winter term of the school was under the instruction of Miss M. A. Vaughan of Taftsville, Vt. Your Committee was glad to find a great improvement this term, both in the application of

the scholars, the order and general advancement manifest in the studies pursued.

The Grammar School has been conducted through the year to the entire satisfaction of the district as well as your Committee, though it was unfortunately broken up in the Winter term by the illness of the teacher, Mr. A. W. Wiggin, who was obliged on that account to leave at the close of the eighth week

The Summer and Fall terms were taught by Miss E. L. Colby of Plainfield. Miss Colby is a thorough and practical teacher, with more than ordinary tact in the management of a school.

The last four weeks of the Winter term were taught by Mr. Alonzo A. Ware.

The interest taken in the schools by a certain part of the parents in the district, has been very gratifying, there having been 628 visits made; but there is a very large proportion of the parents whose names are never found on the visitors' list. This is not as it should be. Such persons are quite as apt to judge of the merits or demerits of a school,—and often to its great injury,—as those who are familiar with it, while it is their privilege and *duty* to be often present, not only to satisfy themselves in regard to their success, but to give their children an earnest of their own interest in a matter of so much importance.

Your Committee has made between forty and fifty visits to the schools in the district during the year, spending a half day at the examination of each at the close of each term, and can congratulate you upon their general success—yet there may be an improvement.

While the average attendance of those joining the schools at each term has not been discreditable, the average for the year has been at least 20 per cent. lower than it should be with our superior advantages. This ought and can be remedied when the people take the interest in the schools which the subject and the welfare of the community demands.

Another and great evil is the almost innumerable excuses that are made for tardiness and irregularity of attendance of those that join the schools at all. While your Committee understands that such excuses are sometimes based upon necessity, he believes that nine-tenths of them are frivolous, and would be remedied by a little more forethought and interest on the part of parents. The fact of a scholar being five or ten minutes late at a session of school may seem a small matter in any given instance, yet no one will deny that will examine the matter, but that its frequent occurrence is a great drawback to the complete success of our schools.

The school buildings are all in good condition, and the schools are well supplied with books, in regard to which there has been no change made during the year.

EDWIN VAUGHAN,
Superintendent of District No. 17.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Of the Schools in Claremont, for the year ending March, 1861.

TEACHERS.	District.	PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEES.	Length of School in weeks.	No. of Scholars attending.	Average Number.	Visitors during the year.
C. C. Church, D. G. Sargent, M. A Davidson, S. Webster, J. A. Thorndike, E. A. Lewis,	1	W. P. Austin.	34	215	123	406
R. N. Atwood, E. A. Huntoon, M. J. Wightman,	2	Lemuel Dole.	29	47	27	63
C. A. Laws, E. Dean,	3	F. W. Densmore.	24	27	16	24
T. S. Smith, H. Dean,	4	E. W. Moore.	24	34	23	50
G. F. Hubbard, N. J. Grannis,	5	William Ellis.	26	32	18	21
C. S. Sargent, L. L. Sargent,	6	W. Sargent.	26	23	12	30
W. H. Chaffin, P. L. Grow,	7	C. A. Leet.	24	36	19	64
W. B. T. Smith, H. E. Ainsworth,	8	H. Long.	30	15	11	28
G. P. Rossiter, H. M. Dodge,	9	G. Densmore.	30	39	18	59
E. J. Hadlock, K. Norton,	10	A. Thomas.	19	11	5	9
A. M. Sperry, S. B. Carlton,	11	G. G. Clark.	24	22	13	46
L. A. Chase, E. S. Holbrook,	12	A. Stowell.	26	20	12	94
N. T. Dutton, A. Dean,	13	J. D. Dimond.	22	14	10	61
M. E. Hapgood, A. Dean,	14	S. H. Andrews.	26	27	16	36
O. B. Way, O. A. McClure, M. E. Dimond,	15	D. F. Tutherly.	28	136	49	235
D. G. Sargent, A. W. Wiggin,	16	T. Rossiter.	16	18	14	39
A. A. Ware, E. L. Colby, M. A. Vaughan, L. A. Holden, I. W. Felt, A. E. Bliss, H. M. Richardson, M. L. Dunklee,	17	H. Patten. D. A. Clay. J. W. Jewett.	31	224	127	628
P. M. Frost, M. Colby,	18	L. Fisher.	30	36	27	45
M. A. Grannis, M. E. Higbee.	19	J. Higbee.	23	20	12	10

For the amount of money apportioned to each district, and the whole number of Scholars as returned by the Selectmen, see Financial Report.